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ART. XI. — CRITICAL NOTICES.

1. — *The Reminiscences of Geoffry Hamlyn.* By HENRY KINGSLEY.
Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1859. pp. 525.

WE have here a fresh, strong, living book, full of motion and activity of all sorts. It produces on the mind an impression like that which the Australia it describes makes upon the imagination, and overflows with hopeful energy, like that which brings encouragement to the unsuccessful worker in the crowded places of the Old World, when he thinks of a new country, to which he may carry his willing hands and his ambitious hopes. Rough at times in language and in outline, the book is all the more picturesque on that account; while the roughness sometimes rises into grandeur, and the picturesqueness into eloquence. The interest of the story is spread over a group of characters, who unite and disperse at intervals, and who obtain a nearly equal portion of the author's attention. The loss of intensity consequent on this arrangement is compensated by the naturalness with which the narrative flows on, and the vitality of the characters themselves. Some of them are not quite the persons we would wish to meet in our daily walk; but they seem in harmony with their surroundings. The descriptions of Australian life are quite fascinating, environed as they are with blossoming flowers and tropical fruits, and warming our cold Northern blood with tales of a temperature at one hundred degrees in January. How can the Australian critic read the English poets without entire dislocation of his almanac?

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2. — *Adam Bede.* By GEORGE ELIOT. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1859. pp. 496.

THE romance of common life has of late years found so many exponents, that it now maintains a fair balance against the attractions of high life and aristocratic emotions. The novelist's field has been much freshened and widened by this accession of territory, and new opportunity for the exercise of his or her talent is afforded by the greater range of character and incident. Of this style of novel "*Adam Bede*" is one of the best. Thoroughly simple and natural, its truthfulness is full of strength, and its simplicity is that of reality. There is a quiet atmosphere permeating the whole book, as the warm June sunshine fills the air. The rural scenes, the honest daily work, the home-talk of shrewd